



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

Raised Bill No. 5763

LCO No. 2677

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING A TRANSFER UPON DEATH OPTION IN THE
MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION FORM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 14-12 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2002*):

4 (b) (1) To obtain a motor vehicle registration, except as provided in
5 subsection (c) of this section, the owner shall file in the office of the
6 commissioner an application signed by him and containing such
7 information and proof of ownership as the commissioner may require.
8 The application shall be made on blanks furnished by the
9 commissioner. The blanks shall be in such form and contain such
10 provisions and information as the commissioner may determine.

11 (2) The commissioner shall make applications available to register a
12 motor vehicle in beneficiary form. Provided a motor vehicle has one
13 owner, such owner may, upon registration of the motor vehicle as
14 required by the commissioner, designate a beneficiary who will
15 assume ownership of the motor vehicle upon the death of the owner.

16 The owner of a motor vehicle registered in beneficiary form shall have
 17 all rights of ownership during his or her life, and the beneficiary shall
 18 have no rights in the motor vehicle until such time as the owner dies.
 19 Not later than forty-five days after the owner's death, the beneficiary
 20 shall register the motor vehicle in his or her own name by paying any
 21 required fee and submitting (A) a new application form, (B) the
 22 owner's registration naming such beneficiary, if available, and (C) a
 23 death certificate for the owner. If the beneficiary fails to comply with
 24 the requirements of this subdivision, the beneficiary shall be fined the
 25 amount designated for the infraction of failure to renew a registration,
 26 but the beneficiary's right to retain his or her operator's license shall
 27 not be affected. The commissioner may adopt regulations, in
 28 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the
 29 provisions of this subdivision.

30 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 15-144 of the general statutes is
 31 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
 32 *October 1, 2002*):

33 (a) (1) Any owner desiring to obtain a vessel registration number or
 34 registration decal shall apply to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
 35 and shall file evidence of ownership by affidavit or document. Upon
 36 receipt of an application in proper form and the numbering fee, the
 37 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall assign a registration number or
 38 registration decal and provide the owner with a temporary certificate
 39 of number or temporary certificate of decal. The Commissioner of
 40 Motor Vehicles shall issue two registration decals and a permanent
 41 certificate. A registration decal shall be displayed on each side of the
 42 vessel at the bow in a manner prescribed by the Commissioner of
 43 Environmental Protection. The certificate shall state the name of the
 44 owner, his address, a description of the vessel, its hull identification
 45 number, the expiration date of the certificate and such other
 46 information as the Commissioner of Environmental Protection may
 47 prescribe by regulations. Such certificate shall be carried aboard and
 48 shall be available for inspection upon the vessel for which it is issued

49 whenever the owner or any person authorized by him is aboard such
 50 vessel, except that the certificate of number for a vessel which is less
 51 than twenty-six feet and which is rented for noncommercial purposes
 52 for less than twenty-four hours may be retained on shore by the owner
 53 of such vessel or his agent at the place where such vessel departs or
 54 returns. If such certificate is retained on shore, a rental agreement
 55 signed by the owner or his agent and by the person renting the vessel
 56 shall be carried aboard such vessel and shall be available for
 57 inspection. Such rental agreement shall contain the vessel number
 58 which appears on the certificate of number and the length of time for
 59 which such vessel is rented.

60 (2) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall make applications
 61 available to register a vessel in beneficiary form. Provided a vessel has
 62 one owner, such owner may designate a beneficiary who will assume
 63 ownership of the vessel upon the death of the owner. The permanent
 64 certificate issued by the commissioner shall contain, in addition to the
 65 name of the owner, the name of the beneficiary. The owner of a vessel
 66 registered in beneficiary form shall have all rights of ownership during
 67 his or her life, and the beneficiary shall have no rights in the vessel
 68 until such time as the owner dies. Upon the owner's death, the
 69 beneficiary shall register the vessel in his or her own name by paying
 70 the required fee and submitting (A) a new application form, (B) the
 71 owner's certificate naming such beneficiary, if available, and (C) a
 72 death certificate for the owner. If the beneficiary fails to comply with
 73 the requirements of this subdivision, the beneficiary shall be fined not
 74 less than twenty-five nor more than two hundred dollars. The
 75 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations, in accordance
 76 with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this
 77 subdivision.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2002</i>

<i>JUD</i>	<i>Joint Favorable</i>
<i>TRA</i>	<i>Joint Favorable</i>
<i>APP</i>	<i>Joint Favorable</i>
<i>PH</i>	<i>Joint Favorable</i>
<i>HS</i>	<i>Joint Favorable</i>